PATENT

(5500-66100/TT4229) IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| Filed: Inven Da | Apr tor(s): vid S. (vin J. N Unif | il 2, 200 Christie AcGrath orm Re | Stad Francis Riv Regard Company (1915) popular Regard Caret Para | - | I hereby certify that this co the United States Postal S class mail in an envelo Patents, Washington, DC 2 | ervice with sufficient pe addressed to Co 0231, on the date indi ence J. Merkel gistered Representativ Augus | g deposited with postage as first mmissioner for cated below. | | |
|---|---|--|--|------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT RECEIVED | | | | | | | | | |
| Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231 SEP 0 9 2002 | | | | | | | | | |
| Sir: | | | | | | Tech | nology Center 2100 | | |
| ,,,, | Annlia | ent raqua | acts consideration of ∇ | 1 tha r | afarancas listad on | the attached | Form PTO | | |
| Applicant requests consideration of the references listed on the attached Form PTO- 1449 and/or the additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A copy of each | | | | | | | | | |
| reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed. | | | | | | | | | |
| l. | . This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted: | | | | | | | | |
| | a. | | within 3 months of the continued prosecution before the mailing date before the mailing of a continued examination | applicate of a first (| ation under § 1.53(irst Office Action of Office Action after | d); on the merits; | or | | |
| | b. | | after the events of abo final Office Action certification of paragra | or No | otice of Allowand | ce, and thus | : the | | |
| | c. | | enclosed. after the mailing date and prior to payment paragraph 2 below is p | of the | e issue fee, and th | nus: the cert | ification of | | |

| 2. | It is hereby certified: | | | | | |
|----|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or | | | | |
| | | that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in § 1.56 (c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement. | | | | |
| 3. | | Consideration of the following additional information (including any co-pending or abandoned U.S. applications, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested: | | | | |
| 4. | For each non-English language reference listed on the attached Form PTO-1449: | | | | | |
| | | reference is made to an English language translation submitted herewith, and/or | | | | |
| | | reference is made to a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith, and/or | | | | |
| | | reference is made to an English language translation of a foreign patent office search report submitted herewith, and/or | | | | |
| | | reference is made to the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page(s), and/or | | | | |
| | | reference is made to the concise explanation set forth below: | | | | |
| 5. | | Applicant also offers the following comments for the Examiner's consideration: | | | | |
| 6. | | Also enclosed is a copy of a foreign search report citing these references. | | | | |
| 7. | | The listed documents were brought to the attention of the Applicant(s) after payment of the issue fee in the captioned case. The documents were cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Applicant(s) request this Information Disclosure Statement and attached Form PTO-1449 be placed in the file of the captioned application | | | | |

8. Applicant(s) requests that the Information Disclosure Statement and attached Form PTO-1449 and references, which are being filed before the grant of the patent and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(i), be placed in the file of the captioned application.

If any required fees are missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Conley, Rose & Tayon, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5500-66100/LJM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence J. Merkel Reg. No. 41,191

Agent for Applicant(s)

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Date: August 26, 2002